



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING




JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
High School Principals
High School Counselors

FROM: Michael P. Flanagan 

DATE: February 27, 2009

SUBJECT: ACT Qualifying Score to Establish Eligibility for Installment Payments of the Michigan Promise Scholarship

A change in state law last year provides seniors with a second opportunity to be eligible for installment payments for the Michigan Promise Scholarship. Seniors can take only the college entrance portion of the Michigan Merit Exam (which is at this time the ACT) to qualify for installment payments under the following circumstances:

- They took the complete Michigan Merit Exam (MME) previously.
- They received valid scores in reading, writing, math, science, and social studies.
- They scored below proficient in one of those subjects.
- The ACT score to be considered for installment payments was from an ACT test taken after all three previous requirements were met.

The law stipulates that for these situations, the State Superintendent set a cut score on the college entrance portion of the MME (ACT) that will qualify such students for installment payments. To identify the potential cut score, Michigan Department of Education staff used three different methods of analysis, all of which arrived at approximately the same cut score of 21. Therefore, I have set an ACT composite score of 21 to be the qualifying score to be used under the circumstances described above.

For the information of those interested in how this qualifying score was determined, the three different methods of analysis were the following:

1. Identifying the ACT composite score that would have qualified the same number of students as qualified based on the MME.
2. Identifying the average ACT composite score of students who scored barely proficient in all five MME subjects.
3. Regressing the ACT composite score on all five MME subject scores and obtaining the predicted ACT composite score for a student who is barely proficient on all five MME subjects.

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